

COMMISSIONER OF
POLITICAL PRACTICES



STATE OF MONTANA

JAMES W "JIM" MURRY
COMMISSIONER
TELEPHONE (406) 444-2942
FAX (406) 444-1643

1205 Eighth Avenue
PO BOX 202401
HELENA, MONTANA 59620-2401
www.politicalpractices.mt.gov

October 10, 2012

To All Interested Parties:

On October 3, 2012, U. S. District Court Judge Charles Lovell issued an Order finding Montana's contribution limit statutes were unconstitutional as applied to individuals and political parties. In that order, Judge Lovell enjoined the State from enforcing the contribution limit statutes against those groups. Following that ruling, attorneys for the Commissioner of Political Practices and Attorney General's office filed an emergency motion to stay Judge Lovell's ruling with the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Last evening, Ninth Circuit Court Judges Gould, Clifton, and Bybee, issued an Order temporarily staying Judge Lovell's ruling. The Circuit Judges stated, "[t]he district court has not issued findings of fact and conclusions of law in support of its order... Without such findings, however, the court is severely constrained in its consideration of the underlying issues raised in the emergency motion."

The result of the Ninth Circuit order is that contribution limits are in effect and will be enforced. This office will continue to notify candidates and the public of rulings affecting the 2012 campaign cycle.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "James W. Murry".

James W. Murry
Commissioner